

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05390 031400 Z

43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5390

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NI

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM TRAINING FOR NIGERIANS IN US

REF: LAGOS 5228, STATE 109426

1. REVIEW OF VISA FILES AND INQUIRIES TO PERSONNEL DEPARTMENTS OF MAJOR OIL FIRMS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 46 NIGERIANS WILL HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN US DURING 1973 PETROLEUM INDUSTRY- RELATED FIELDS. TYPES OF TRAINING RANGE FROM FULL TIME STUDY OF PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES TO SHORT- TERM " IN- COMPANY" TRAINING OF NIGERIAN EMPLOYEES IN AREAS OF DRILLING AND CEMENTING TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE, PERSONNEL, AND FINANCE SKILLS REQUIRED BY RESIDENT OIL COMPANIES. IN ADDITION, US- BASED PARENT FIRMS OF LOCAL OIL COMPANIES OFFER SEVERAL SUMMER JOBS TO NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN US IN GEOPHYSICS, PETROCHEMISTRY AND MANAGEMENT.

2. SINCE NOT ALL LOCAL OIL SERVICE COMPANIES WERE INCLUDED IN EMBASSY' S INFORMAL SURVEY AND VISA RECORDS PRIOR TO JUNE 1972 HAVE BEEN RETIRED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NIGERIANS RECEIV OIL INDUSTRY- RELATED TRAINING IN US DURING 1973 IS ALMOST CERTAINLY HIGHER THAN INDICATED ABOVE.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05390 031400 Z

3. ANALYSIS OF TYPES OF TRAINING TO BE RECEIVED DURING
1973 SHOWS:

A. 9 NIGERIANS ARE PARTICIPATING IN FULL- TIME
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN SUBJECTS EXPECTED TO PREPARE
THEM FOR CAREERS IN OIL INDUSTRY, INCLUDING PETROLEUM
ENGINEERING AND GEOPHYSICS.

B. 26 NIGERIAN EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE RECEIVED " IN-
COMPANY" TRAINING IN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SKILLS IN US
OF FROM ONE TO NINE MONTHS DURATION.

C. 8 NIGERIAN EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE UNDERTAKEN SHORT-
TERM " IN- COMPANY" TRAINING OF LESS THAN ONE MONTH DURATION.

D. 3 NIGERIANS, NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE TOTALS BUT
STUDYING OTHER ACTIVITIES IN US, WILL RECEIVE SUMMER JOBS
FROM PARENT FIRMS OF LOCAL PETRELEUM COMPANIES.

4. EMBASSY INTENDS TO PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO FEYIDE,
INCLUDING DETAILS ON THE SPECIFIC COURSES TAKEN AND THE
IFTITUPONS GIVCGHHEM. HOWEVER, IT SIVEAR THAT FEYIDE
WILL NOT CONSIDER THESE ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE TO
HIS DESIRES FOR " IN- SERVICE" TRAINING. HE WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY NOTE THAT LITTLE, IF ANY , OF THIS
TRAINING IS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO PREPARE YOUNG
GRADUATE ENGINEERS AND GEOLOGISTS FOR EXECUTIVE
POSITIONS IN OIL INDUSTRY THROUGH A BROAD- GAUGED
INTRODUCTION TO A WIDE RANGE OF OPERATING PROCEEDING
AND POLICY PROBLEMS WITHIN MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. WE
WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT WE
MIGHT SAY IN RESPONSE TO THE INEVITABLE QUESTION ABOUT
PROSPECTS FOR THE " IN- SERVICE" TRAINING HE WANTS.
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